

***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicant: Tetsuichiro YAMAMOTO, et al.

Title: IMAGE READING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SAME

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 04/25/2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Claims:**

- 1        17. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 12,
- 2        wherein said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and
- 3        wherein an image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided
- 4        between said storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making
- 5        up said image signal outputting.

Please add the following new claim:

- 1        18. (New) The image reading apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein
- 2        said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and wherein an
- 3        image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided between said
- 4        storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making up said image
- 5        signal outputting.

**REMARKS**

The foregoing amendments are being made in order to correct a typographical error and to avoid the payment of government fees for multiple dependent claims. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Version Showing Changes

In the Claims

17. (Amended) The image reading apparatus according to Claim [21 or Claim 16] 12, wherein said reading device is constructed as a color reading device, and wherein an image processing circuit for gray-level correction is provided between said storing device and said analog to digital converting circuit making up said image signal outputting.